

2014 – 2015 MICHIGAN'S AMERICORPS CONCEPT PAPER APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR NEW & RECOMPETING APPLICANTS



Due Dates

Intents to Apply must be received by: September 15, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. EST
Please send to davisj31@michigan.gov

Applications must be received by: October 1, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. EST
Applications should be submitted via email to at yardj@michigan.gov

For more information, contact

Jeanine Yard: (517) 512- 4497 or (yardj@michigan.gov)

Ben Gulker: (517) 512-4544 or (gulkerb@michigan.gov)

Megan Foresman: (517) 512-4506 or (sargentm1@michigan.gov)

Or visit www.michigan.gov/mcsc

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Notice of Intent to Apply: Submission of a Notice of Intent to Apply is **required to be eligible for this competition** and is due **Monday, September 15, 2014** at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time by e-mail to davisj31@michigan.gov

Application Deadline: Applications are **due Tuesday, October 1, 2014** at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Applications should be submitted via email to at yardj@michigan.gov

OVERVIEW

AmeriCorps is a national network of service programs designed to engage thousands of Americans on a full- or part-time basis to help communities address their toughest challenges. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) administers AmeriCorps at the federal level and works in partnership with states to develop service programs and to create a community-based national service network. CNCS seeks to fund AmeriCorps programs that address goals in the areas of education, disaster preparedness, services for veterans and military families, healthy futures, environmental stewardship, and economic opportunity. Programs must demonstrate community impact and solve community problems through an evidence-based approach (e.g. performance data, research, theory of change).

The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) is the administrative agent for Michigan's AmeriCorps programs receiving CNCS funding. The Michigan Community Service Commission utilizes service as a strategy to address the state's most pressing issues and empowers volunteers to strengthen communities. For more information on the MCSC, including currently funded programs, please visit our website at www.michigan.gov/mcsc.

The mission of the Corporation for National and Community Service is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic participation through service and volunteering. Through its AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs, CNCS has helped to engage millions of citizens in meeting community and national challenges through service and volunteer action.

These Michigan's AmeriCorps Application Guidelines will focus on grant making for fiscal year 2014 in six focus areas: Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families.

Indian Tribes are eligible to apply; however, a separate Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity for Indian Tribes for either fully operational or planning grants will be released later in the fall with an application deadline of spring 2015.

In order to maximize the impact of the public investment in national service, CNCS will provide grants to programs that demonstrate that they will engage AmeriCorps members in an evidence-based or evidence-informed approach to providing a service intervention that will result in intended solutions to community problems (e.g., based on proposed program's performance and evaluation data or research demonstrating the effectiveness of a similar intervention). Applicants shall provide evidence that the proposed intervention is effective for the proposed population and community challenge.

CNCS believes that all Americans should have opportunities to participate in national service, including those that have been traditionally underrepresented in national service, such as rural residents, people with disabilities, veterans and military families, Native Americans, and “Opportunity Youth, the one in six young people (ages 16-24) who are disconnected from school or work.” CNCS recognizes that service can create powerful pathways to education and employment for these populations, transforming their communities and creating broad economic benefit for the country.

CNCS remains committed to ensuring programs that recruit and retain underrepresented individuals are a substantial cohort of the national service network. Veterans, military families, and Opportunity Youth are included in CNCS’ funding priorities, and recruiting traditionally underrepresented populations into service is a strategic characteristic.

CNCS requires that programs co-brand as AmeriCorps programs and that their participants consistently identify, and are recognized, as AmeriCorps members providing value to the community. Applicants will be asked to provide their implementation plans to ensure that this occurs.

Section V of these *guidelines* includes a description of the review and selection process.

Applicants may be asked to respond to additional and/or different application questions in the comprehensive application, which is due on December 22, 2014.

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Purpose of AmeriCorps funding

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award from the National Service Trust.

For two decades, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has invested in community solutions across the nation, working hand in hand with local partners to improve lives, expand economic opportunity, and engage millions of Americans in solving problems in their communities.

With its unique structure as a public-private partnership and its model of engaging citizens and requiring matching resources from outside parties, national service can benefit the recipients of service, those who serve, local communities, and our nation.

Through all its programs, CNCS seeks to expand economic opportunity – helping Americans acquire the skills, education, and training they need for productive employment. By helping more Americans graduate, pursue higher education, and find work, national service can provide

immediate and long-term benefits by expanding individual opportunity, building family stability, and creating more sustainable, resilient communities.

Through AmeriCorps and its other programs, CNCS brings vital leadership, resources, and coordination to some of the most pressing challenges facing America: educating students for jobs of the 21st century; assisting individuals, families, and neighborhoods on the road to economic recovery; addressing the needs of military families and a new generation of veterans; helping communities rebuild after natural disasters; increasing energy efficiency and improving at-risk ecosystems; and providing information to improve the health and welfare of individuals in disadvantaged communities.

B. Focus Areas

In order to carry out Congress' intent and to maximize the impact of investment in national service, CNCS is targeting AmeriCorps funds to the following focus areas:

Disaster Services

Grant activities will increase the preparedness of individuals, improve individuals' readiness to respond, help individuals recover from disasters, and help individuals mitigate disasters. Grantees also have the ability to respond to national disasters under CNCS cooperative agreements and FEMA mission assignments.

Economic Opportunity

Grants will provide support and/or facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to the improved economic well-being and security of economically disadvantaged people. Grant activities will help economically disadvantaged people to have improved access to services aimed at contributing to their enhanced financial literacy; transition into or remain in safe, healthy, affordable housing; and have improved employability leading to increased success in becoming employed.

Education

Grants will provide support and/or facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to improved educational outcomes for economically disadvantaged individuals, especially children. CNCS is particularly interested in program designs that support youth engagement and service-learning as strategies to achieve improved academic outcomes. Grant activities will improve school readiness for economically disadvantaged young children; educational and behavioral outcomes of students in low-achieving elementary, middle, and high schools; and the preparation for, and prospects of success, in post-secondary educational institutions for economically disadvantaged students.

Environmental Stewardship

Grants will provide support for direct services that contribute to increased energy and water efficiency, renewable energy use, or improving at-risk ecosystems. In addition, grants will support increased individual behavioral change leading to increased efficiency, renewable energy use, and ecosystem improvements particularly for economically disadvantaged households and communities. Grant activities will decrease energy and water consumption; improve at-risk ecosystems; increase behavioral changes that lead directly to decreased energy and water

consumption or improved at-risk ecosystems; and increase green training opportunities that may lead to decreased energy and water consumption or improved at-risk ecosystems.

Healthy Futures

Grants will provide support for health needs within communities including access to care, aging in place, and childhood obesity. Grant activities will improve access to primary and preventive health care for communities served by CNCS-supported programs; increase seniors' ability to remain in their own homes with the same or improved quality of life for as long as possible; and increase physical activity and improve nutrition in youth with the purpose of reducing childhood obesity.

Veterans and Military Families

Grants will positively impact the quality of life of veterans and improve military family strength. Grant activities will increase the number of veterans and military service members and their families served by CNCS-supported programs and increase the number of veterans and military family members engaged in service through CNCS-supported programs.

C. Additional Program Models

Capacity Building

Grants also will provide support for capacity building activities provided by national service participants. As a general rule, CNCS considers capacity building activities to be *indirect services* that enable CNCS-supported organizations to provide more, better, and sustained *direct services* in CNCS' six focus areas. Capacity building activities cannot be solely intended to support the administration or operations of the organization. Examples of capacity building activities include recruiting and/or managing community volunteers; implementing effective volunteer management practices; completing community assessments that identify goals and recommendations; developing new systems and business processes (technology, performance management, training, etc.); or enhancing existing systems and business processes.

Encore Programs

Congress set a goal that 10 percent of AmeriCorps funding should support encore service programs that engage a significant number of participants age 55 or older. CNCS seeks to meet that 10 percent target in this competition and encourages encore programs to apply.

Professional Corps

Professional Corps programs recruit and place qualified members in positions as teachers, health care providers, police officers, engineers, or other professionals in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals. Applicants are eligible to apply for funding for a portion of the program costs. Professional Corps members' salaries are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve, and are not included in the budget. In order to be considered for funding, applicants must demonstrate that there are an inadequate number of professionals in the community(ies) where the corps seeks to place members. These grants can either be fixed amount or cost reimbursement grants.

D. National Performance Measures

The SAA emphasizes measuring the impact of service and focusing on a core set of issue areas. CNCS' five-year Strategic Plan establishes an ambitious set of objectives that support the mission and goals to implement the Serve America Act. These strategic goals guided the development of 16 agency-wide Priority Performance Measures. National Performance Measures allow CNCS to demonstrate aggregated impact of all its national service programs, including AmeriCorps State and National. They are divided in two categories: Priority Measures and Complementary Program Measures. For more information, please refer to the National Performance Measure Instructions.

Applications should consult the National Service Knowledge Network when selecting National Performance Measures to ensure alignment with CNCS requirements. Information is available online at <https://www.nationalserviceresources.gov/npm/ac>.

Although applicants are not required to complete formal performance measures in the concept paper, applicants are encouraged to begin exploring national performance measures for inclusion in their comprehensive applications.

E. 2015 AmeriCorps Funding Priorities

In the FY 2015 AmeriCorps competition, CNCS seeks to prioritize the investment of national service resources in economic opportunity, education, veterans and military families, disaster services, environmental stewardship, and healthy futures.

II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Funding Available

CNCS and MCSC expect a highly competitive AmeriCorps FY 2015 grant competition. MCSC expects to award new, recompeting, and continuation AmeriCorps grants. The actual level of funding will be subject to the availability of annual appropriations, which have not yet been made.

B. Award Amount

Awards will be for funds and AmeriCorps member slots. The MCSC and/or CNCS will review applications and determine the appropriate award amount, if any. Award amounts vary.

C. Award Period

Unless otherwise specified, the grant generally covers a three-year project period. In approving a multi-year project period, the MCSC and CNCS generally make an initial award for the first year of operation. In most cases, the application is submitted with a one-year budget. Continuation funding is not guaranteed. Factors considered in awarding continuation grants include satisfactory performance, demonstrated capacity to manage the grant, compliance with grant requirements, agency priorities, and the availability of appropriated funds. CNCS reserves the right to adjust the amount of a grant or elect not to continue funding for subsequent years.

D. Types of Grants

AmeriCorps grants can be awarded on a cost reimbursement or fixed amount basis. CNCS will not provide both types of grants for the same project in one fiscal year. See Definitions in the Appendix.

Fixed-amount grants are only available to recompeting programs. New applicants are not eligible to apply for fixed amount grants.

III. ELIGIBILITY

A. Eligibility to apply

Public or private nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and other community organizations; institutions of higher education; government entities within states or territories (e.g., cities, counties); labor organizations; partnerships and consortia; Tribes; and intermediaries planning to subgrant awarded funds are encouraged to apply. Receiving funding previously from CNCS or another Federal agency is not a prerequisite to applying under these guidelines.

Organizations that have been convicted of a Federal crime are disqualified from receiving the assistance described in these guidelines. Pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in Section 501 (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. § 501 (c)(4), that engages in lobbying activities is not eligible to apply.

New Applicants

CNCS encourages organizations that have never received CNCS or AmeriCorps funding to apply for the grants described in these guidelines. New applicants are not eligible to receive fixed amount grants.

B. Match Requirements

Fixed amount Grants

There is no specific match requirement for fixed amount grants, but CNCS does not provide all the funds necessary to operate the program. Organizations must raise the additional revenue required to operate the program.

Cost Reimbursement Grants (non-fixed amount)

A first-time successful applicant is required to match at 24 percent of the total program cost for the first three-year funding period. Starting with year four, the match requirement gradually increases every year to 50 percent by year ten, according to the minimum overall share chart found in 45 CFR §2521.60.

Section 121(e)(5) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, requires programs that use other federal funds as match for an AmeriCorps grant to report the amount and source of these funds to CNCS on the Federal Financial Report. Grantees must track and be prepared to report on that match separately each year.

The living allowance or salary provided to AmeriCorps members in Professional Corps programs does not count toward the matching requirement.

Alternative Match

Under certain circumstances, applicants may qualify to meet alternative matching requirements that increase over the years to 35 percent instead of 50 percent as specified in the regulations at 45 CFR §2521.60(b). To qualify, applicants must demonstrate that the proposed program is either located in a rural county or in a severely economically distressed community as defined by CNCS. Applicants that plan to request an alternative match schedule must submit a request to the MCSC.

C. Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and System for Award Management (SAM)

Applications must include a DUNS number and an Employer Identification Number. The DUNS number does not replace an Employer Identification Number. All applicants must be registered with the Systems for Award Management (SAM).

DUNS numbers may be obtained at no cost by calling the DUNS number request line at (866) 705-5711 or by applying online: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. The website indicates a 48-hour e-mail turnaround time on requests for DUNS numbers; however, we suggest registering at least 30 days in advance of the application due date.

After obtaining a DUNS number, applicants must then register with SAM at <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/>. SAM collects, validates, stores, and disseminates data in support of Federal agency contracts, grant awards, cooperative agreements, and other forms of federal assistance. All grant recipients are required to maintain a valid SAM registration, which must be renewed annually. Applicants that are not already registered with SAM are urged to begin the registration process immediately in order to avoid any delays in submitting applications. Applicants must have a DUNS number in order to register with SAM.

D. Other Requirements

1. Member Living Allowance

The proposed budget must include a living allowance for full-time members that is between \$12,100 (minimum) and \$24,200 (maximum) per member except as noted below. A living allowance is not considered a salary or a wage.

Programs are not required to provide a living allowance for members serving in less than full-time terms of service. If a program chooses to provide a living allowance to a less than full-time member, it must comply with the maximum limits in the Table below. For cost-reimbursement grants, the amount must be included in the proposed budget as either CNCS or grantee share.

While full-time fixed-amount grant applicants are not required to submit detailed budgets, they are still required to provide a living allowance that complies with the minimum and maximum requirements to members (EXCEPTION: as noted in section D.2. below). Fixed-amount grant applicants are not required to indicate that amount in the application and should request those positions as “without living allowance” in the budget.

Table 1: Minimum and Maximum Living Allowance

Service Term	Minimum # of Hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance
Full-time	1700	\$12,100	\$24,200

One-year Half-time	900	n/a	\$12,800
Reduced Half-time	675	n/a	\$9,600
Quarter-time	450	n/a	\$6,400
Minimum-time	300	n/a	\$4,260

2. Exceptions to the Living Allowance Requirements (for programs existing prior to September 21, 1993)

If a program existed prior to September 21, 1993, a living allowance is not required. If an applicant chooses to offer a living allowance, it is exempt from the minimum requirement of \$12,100, but not the maximum requirement of \$24,200.

EAP Fixed amount Grantees are not required to provide a living allowance, but if a living allowance is provided, it must comply with the maximum requirements set forth in the Living Allowance Table above.

Professional Corps Grantees members must receive a living allowance or salary, which must meet the minimum, but may exceed the maximum living allowance set in the Living Allowance Table above. Professional Corps member salaries are paid entirely by the organizations with which the members serve, and are not included in the budget.

3. Maximum Cost per Member Service Year (MSY)

Maximum Costs per MSY are set forth in Table 2 below. CNCS considers comparative costs per MSY in making funding decisions. New applicants that submit with a low cost per MSY and recompeting applicants that submit with a lower cost per MSY than previously funded may receive higher priority for funding. The CNCS cost per MSY is determined by dividing the CNCS share of budgeted grant costs by the number of MSYs requested. It does not include child care or the value of the education award a member may earn. The maximum amount an applicant may request from CNCS per MSY is determined on an annual basis.

Continuation and recompeting Grantees requesting a higher cost per MSY than in the previous year must include a compelling rationale for this increased cost. This applies even if the increased cost per MSY is less than the maximum.

New applicants and recompeting applicants will be held to the maximum cost per MSY for their grant type. This does not affect continuation programs currently funded at a higher cost per MSY.

Table 2: 2013 Maximum Cost per MSY

Grant Program	Maximum
Individual Competitive State Program (cost reimbursement)	\$13,300
Professional Corps Grant (Cost Reimbursement)	\$2,000
Professional Corps Fixed-amount Grant	\$2,000
Education Award Program Fixed-amount Grant	\$800
Full time Fixed-amount Grant	\$13,000

4. Member Enrollment Requirements for Existing Grantees

Grantees are expected to enroll all the members included in their grant award. Enrollment rates have a direct bearing on the number of slots and the size of awards approved in the continuation and recompute processes. Continuation and recompeting Grantees that have not achieved full enrollment in the previous year must provide an explanation and a corrective action plan in their application. Successful applicants that do not fully enroll are likely to receive a decrease in funding in subsequent years.

5. Member Retention Requirements for Existing Grantees

Grantees are expected to pursue the highest retention rate possible. Retention rates will have a direct bearing on the number of slots and the size of awards approved in the continuation and recompute processes. Successful applicants that do not retain their members are likely to receive a decrease in funding in subsequent years. We recognize retention rates may vary among equally effective programs depending on the program model. Continuation or recompeting Grantees that have not achieved full retention in the most recently completed program year must provide an explanation and a corrective action plan in their application.

6. Amount of the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award for FY 2015

AmeriCorps members serving in programs funded with FY 2015 dollars who successfully complete a term of service will receive an Education Award from the National Service Trust of \$5,645 for a year of full-time service, with correspondingly smaller awards for less-than-full-time service. The amount of the Education Award is determined on the basis of the Pell Grant award. A member has up to seven years after his or her term of service to use the Education Award.

Table 3: Term of Service and FY15 Education Award

Term of Service	Minimum # of Hours	FY13 Education Award
Full Time	1700	\$5,645
One-Year Half Time	900	\$2,822
Reduced Half Time	675	\$2,150
Quarter Time	450	\$1,493
Minimum Time	300	\$1,195

7. Generating Volunteers

A fundamental purpose of AmeriCorps is to help recruit, support, and manage volunteers that meet community needs. By creating volunteer opportunities and helping organizations to effectively engage volunteers, AmeriCorps programs multiply their impact, build organizational capacity, and support the development of sustainable programs. All Michigan's AmeriCorps programs are required to recruit volunteers and report on volunteer recruitment to the MCSC. Each program is required to recruit 20 volunteers per MSY.

AmeriCorps programs are given great flexibility to determine the best approach for the effective involvement of volunteers and can deploy AmeriCorps members in a wide variety of ways to support volunteer recruitment and management. AmeriCorps members may be responsible for enlisting, training, and/or coordinating volunteers. They may help an organization to develop effective volunteer management systems that include clear position descriptions, screening

techniques, and/or volunteer policy and procedure manuals. AmeriCorps members may promote retention of volunteers by planning recognition events or providing ongoing support and follow-up to ensure that volunteers have a high quality experience. Members may assist an organization in reaching out to individuals and communities of different backgrounds when encouraging volunteerism, to ensure a breadth of experiences and expertise is represented in service activities.

MCSC's expectation is that volunteers will be engaged in ways that support the mission of the AmeriCorps program in which members serve. The involvement of volunteers should enhance or build upon any direct service goals of the program or organization of which the AmeriCorps members are a part.

Volunteers may be engaged on national days of service such as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service (January), 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance (September), and Global Youth Service Day (April). In the case of national days of service, the program may propose for approval activities outside the normal activities of the grant.

Volunteer recruitment and management is not intended to replace direct service activities of AmeriCorps members.

If an applicant believes it is unable to include volunteer recruitment and management as part of their program, either because of the program model or for any other reason, the applicant must request a waiver in their application. The waiver must state specific reasons why this requirement would require a fundamental alteration of the program structure. The explanation will be considered during the grant application review process.

8. Member Eligibility, Recruitment, and Selection

Term of Service: Programs may engage members on a full- or less than full-time basis. Regardless of the type of service term, the maximum time limit is one calendar year. The following slots can be utilized:

- Full-time: a minimum of 1,700 hours during a period of not less than nine months and not more than one year;
- Half-time: a minimum of 900 hours;
- Reduced half-time: a minimum of 675 hours
- Quarter-time: a minimum of 450 hours;
- Minimum-time: a minimum of 300 hours.

Member Eligibility: At the time of enrollment in a Michigan's AmeriCorps program, members must:

- Be at least 17 years of age;
- Possess a high school diploma or its equivalent, or agree to obtain a high school diploma or equivalent prior to using the education award;
- Not have dropped out of elementary or secondary school;
- Be a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national or lawful permanent resident alien; and
- Meet the task-related eligibility requirements established by the program.

Selection: Each individual program selects its own Michigan's AmeriCorps members, and the selection criteria will vary among programs. Programs must select members in a non-partisan, non-political, non-discriminatory manner that is in accordance with State and Federal equal employment opportunity laws. Programs must establish minimum qualifications for members related to the service they will provide, including the successful completion of an AmeriCorps orientation period. Programs must ensure that they do not displace any existing paid employees.

Programs with members who will have substantial direct contact with children or individuals considered vulnerable by the program, shall conduct criminal history checks on these members as part of the screening process.

The MCSC encourages programs to select members who possess leadership potential and a commitment to the goals of the AmeriCorps program, regardless of education level, work experience, or economic background. The MCSC also encourages programs to consider selecting some members from state and national recruitment systems in order to supplement local recruitment with people who (1) are from different backgrounds and regions of the nation, (2) have special skills or training, and (3) desire to serve but live in areas where there are few or no national service programs. Plans for effective member selection should be reflected in the AmeriCorps application.

Recruitment Tools and Resources: MCSC and CNCS have a variety of tools available for programs to enhance their own recruitment efforts, including a national, web-based recruitment system.

9. Reasonable Accommodations for Disabilities

Increasing the participation of people with disabilities in national and community service programs is a key interest of the CNCS. All AmeriCorps programs are encouraged to actively reach out to and include people with disabilities. Programs and activities must be accessible. Programs must provide reasonable accommodation for known mental or physical disabilities of otherwise qualified members, service recipients, applicants, and program staff. All selections and project assignments must be made without regard to the need to provide reasonable accommodations. The vast majority of accommodations are inexpensive.

10. Participation in National Days of Service

As part of the national service network, there are a number of opportunities for programs to take part in related to national days of service. The MCSC and CNCS expect all national service programs, including AmeriCorps programs, to participate in one or more days of service, including the 9-11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, National AmeriCorps Week, National Volunteer Week, and Global Youth Service Day.. National days of service represent one way for programs to engage volunteers.

11. Program Monitoring and Management Responsibilities

Certain program models may make monitoring and program management a particular challenge for organizations. These include programs that are spread out geographically and programs that attempt to address many issue areas at once. If a program design includes one of these challenges, the program should address it specifically in their application and provide specific

strategies for monitoring and management. Strategies may include: recruiting and enrolling members who can work independently; providing appropriate orientation, ongoing training, and a means of regular communication; selecting strong host sites; ensuring strong support from direct-line supervision of members; and narrowing the range of tasks members perform to make monitoring easier.

If approved for an AmeriCorps grant, the organization is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of grant-supported activities. Activities must be in compliance with applicable federal requirements and address performance goals. Monitoring needs to cover each program, function, or activity. The organization is responsible for ensuring program quality and that the program has an impact on the problems facing the communities in which it operates. This includes monitoring the member services, including the timely and accurate documentation of member eligibility and service hours. Each program should develop systems that closely track and monitor these requirements.

12. Program Reporting

Michigan's AmeriCorps programs must comply with all reporting required by the MCSC, including quarterly progress reports, monthly expenditure reports, member hours tracking forms, continuous improvement surveys, and member enrollment, termination, and end-of-term-of-service forms. Programs are required to use an MCSC designated on-line reporting system for all aspects of reporting.

13. Michigan's AmeriCorps Program Directors Meetings

Michigan's AmeriCorps program directors must participate in regularly scheduled monthly program directors' meetings and conference calls.

14. MCSC Trainings and Special Events

Michigan's AmeriCorps staff and members are encouraged to participate in all MCSC sponsored program trainings and service events, including the annual Michigan's AmeriCorps Member Celebration and regional Signature Service Projects. In addition, organizational leaders are required to attend an annual meeting to discuss sustainability and national service issues.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. How to Apply

Organizations that propose to operate in a single state apply directly to the State Commission for the state in which they will operate. In Michigan, this is the MCSC. Single-state applicants must follow the state-specific deadlines and application instructions as detailed in these guidelines.

Organizations that propose to operate in more than one state apply directly to CNCS.

Organizations in states and territories without commissions apply directly to CNCS.

1. Notice of Intent to Apply (Required for application submission)

Applicants are **required** to send a Notice of Intent to Apply by September 15, 2014. Notifications should be sent by e-mail to davisj31@michigan.gov with the subject: AmeriCorps State Notice of Intent. MCSC will not consider notifications received after the deadline. Failure to submit a Notice of Intent to Apply will render an applicant ineligible to apply. All Notices of Intent to Apply will receive an email response acknowledging receipt.

Applicants should use the Intent to Apply Form in the Appendix of these guidelines.

Notice of Intent to Apply will help MCSC plan more efficiently for external review. Providing an e-mail address will allow MCSC to contact applicants directly when necessary.

2. Submission Dates and Times

The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, October 1, 2014. MCSC will not consider applications received after the deadline, except when noted below. MCSC reserves the right to extend the submission deadline and any notice of such extended deadline will be posted publicly. This deadline applies to new and recompeting applicants.

3. Late Applications

MCSC may, at its discretion, consider an application received after the deadline, but only if the applicant submits a letter to yardj@michigan.gov explaining the extenuating circumstance that caused the delay. Communication with MCSC staff (including an assigned program officer) is not a substitution for sending this letter. The letter must be received no later than one business day after the application deadline.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

1. Submitting via email

The first round of applications is due via email as described above on October 1, 2014.

2. Submitting in eGrants

Applications that are successful in the external and internal review process must be submitted via the CNCS web-based system, eGrants, by December 22, 2014. MCSC will provide additional instructions in advance of that due date. MCSC calls these applications “comprehensive applications” and will provide additional technical assistance prior to submission.

3. Page Limits

Applications for new applicants may not exceed 15 pages. Applicants for recompeting applicants may not exceed 17 pages. Recompeting applicants are provided with additional space because additional questions are asked of them. Reviewers will not consider submitted material that is over the page limit. Do not submit non-required supplemental materials such as videos, DVDs, brochures, letters of support. MCSC will not review or return them.

C. Funding Restrictions

Grants under this program, except for full-time fixed-amount and EAP grants, are subject to the applicable Cost Principles under OMB Circulars 2 CFR Part 220(formerly A-21), 2 CFR Part 230 (formerly A-122), or 2 CFR Part 225 (formerly A-87) and the Uniform Administrative Requirements for grants under A-102 (45 CFR Part 2541) or A-110 (45 CFR 2543 or 2 CFR Part 215).

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. Assessment Criteria

Each applicant must clearly describe a project that will deploy AmeriCorps members effectively to solve a significant community problem. We urge your organization to submit a high quality application carefully following these guidelines. The quality of your application will be an important factor in determining whether your organization will receive funding.

Please develop your application as a response to the questions beginning on page 15. Respond thoroughly to each question. Your application will be assessed as follows:

Threshold issues

Applications should reflect that they meet the threshold requirements for the grant type for which they are applying. A few examples follow. If an applicant wants a grant for a Professional Corps, then the application should demonstrate that the community(ies) in which it will place professionals, has an inadequate number of said professionals. If an applicant wants a fixed amount grant, then the application should reflect that only full-time or less than full-time positions serving in a full-time capacity will be permitted.

1. Executive Summary

Please fill in the blanks of these sentences to complete the executive summary.

The [Name of the organization] will have [Number of] AmeriCorps members who will [what the members will be doing] in [the locations the AmeriCorps members will be]. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for [anticipated outcome of project]. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage an additional [number of leveraged volunteers, if applicable] that will be engaged in [what the leveraged volunteers will be doing.]

This program will focus on the CNCS focus area of [Focus Area(s)]. The CNCS investment of \$[amount of request] will be matched with \$[amount of projected match], \$[amount of local, state, and federal funds] in public funding and \$[amount of non-governmental funds] in private funding.

Fixed-amount grant applicants should list their leveraged resources as they are not required to match.

CNCS will post all Executive Summaries of awarded grant applications on www.nationalservice.gov in the interest of transparency and Open Government.

2. Rationale and Approach/Program Design (50 percent)

In assessing how you will meet the criteria, reviewers will consider the quality of your response to the following:

a. Problem/Need

Describe the community need(s) the AmeriCorps members will be addressing. Provide information about the extent/severity of the need(s) in the community(ies) where your proposed AmeriCorps members will serve and cite specific relevant data.

b. AmeriCorps Members as Highly Effective Means to Solve Community Problems Evidence-Based/Evidence-Informed and Measurable Community Impact

Please describe:

- Number of locations or sites in which members are providing direct services
- Number of AmeriCorps members that will be delivering the intervention or program model
- The core activities that define the intervention or program model that members will be implementing or delivering
- The duration of the intervention (e.g., the total number of weeks, sessions or months of the intervention)
- The dosage of the intervention (e.g., the number of hours per session or sessions per week)
- The target population for the intervention (e.g., disconnected youth, third graders at a certain reading proficiency level)
- The indicators and data collection tools that will be used to measure and track program outcomes

- The proposed outputs and outcomes that are the result of the intervention(s)

Describe how the intervention is designed to address the problem described in the previous section and what evidence there is to support that the intervention will lead to the outcomes identified. Why should CNCS/MCSC invest in this project?

Please state the proposed outcomes clearly, and provide evidence that the proposed intervention will lead to the proposed outcomes. In this section, applicants shall provide a description of the studies and/or evaluations conducted that provide evidence that the proposed intervention is effective for the proposed population and community challenge. This section shall include specific citations of studies and/or publicly available evaluation and research reports. In this section, the applicant should indicate whether the body of evidence suggests that their intervention is evidence-informed or evidence-based based on the definition below.

- 1) The amount of evidence;
- 2) The quality of evidence based on the study design;
- 3) The degree of match between the program model evaluated in the studies and the one proposed by the applicant; and
- 4) Meeting the criteria for evidence-informed or evidence-based, with higher points going towards evidence-based programs.

Evidence informed means that:

- a) There is at least one study that is a correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias; quasi-experimental study that meets the What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Standards with reservations (See http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/reference_resources/wwc_procedures_v2_1_standards_handbook.pdf); or randomized controlled trial that meets the What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Standards with or without reservations and
- b) The study referenced in paragraph (a) found a statistically significant or substantively important (defined as a difference of 0.25 standard deviations or larger), favorable association between at least one critical component and one relevant outcome presented in the logic model for the proposed process, product, strategy, or practice.

Quasi-experimental study means a study using a design that attempts to approximate an experimental design by identifying a comparison group that is similar to the treatment group in important respects. These studies, depending on design and implementation, can meet What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Standards with reservations (they cannot meet What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Standards without reservations).

Randomized controlled trial means a study that employs random assignment of, for example, students, teachers, classrooms, schools, or districts to receive the intervention being evaluated (the treatment group) or not to receive the intervention (the control group). The estimated effectiveness of the intervention is the difference between the average outcome for the treatment group and for the control group. These studies, depending on design and implementation, can meet What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Standards without reservations.

Evidence-based: Means evidence from previous studies whose designs can support causal conclusions (i.e., studies with high internal validity), and studies that in total include enough of the range of participants and settings (i.e., studies with high external validity). This is defined as:

- (1) More than one well-designed and well-implemented experimental study or well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study that supports the effectiveness of the practice, strategy, or program; or
- (2) One large, well-designed and well-implemented randomized controlled, multisite trial that supports the effectiveness of the practice, strategy, or program.

c. Member Training

What are the anticipated training topics and the timeline for member training? Please describe how long the training will last, who will provide the training, and how the program will ensure that it adequately prepares members for their service activities.

d. Member Supervision

If the program is proposing a multi-site model, please describe the role of the site supervisors and Program Director in member supervision. Describe the plan for supervising members that ensures they will receive adequate support and guidance.

e. Commitment to AmeriCorps Identification

How will the program educate members to ensure they know and understand they are AmeriCorps members? How will the program create community awareness about the AmeriCorps program and its members? How will the program ensure that its participants will wear the AmeriCorps logo daily? How will the applicant ensure participants are prepared to speak about their AmeriCorps experience to members of the community?

3. Organizational Capability (25 percent)

In assessing how the applicant will meet the criteria, reviewers will consider the quality of the applicant's response to the following:

a. Organizational Background and Staffing

Describe how the organization has the experience, staffing, and management structure to plan and implement the proposed program. Describe the applicant organization's prior experience administering AmeriCorps grants or other federal funds. Please email an organizational chart to davisj31@michigan.gov with the subject: AmeriCorps State Organizational Chart.

b. Compliance and Accountability

How will the applicant's organization ensure compliance with AmeriCorps rules and regulations, including those related to prohibited activities at the program and service site locations (if proposing a multi-site model)? How will the applicant's organization prevent and detect compliance issues? How will the applicant's organization hold itself and service site locations (if applicable) accountable if instances of risk or noncompliance are identified?

c. Past Performance For Current Grantees and Former Grantees Only (Recompeting applicants)

Describe the applicant's performance against performance measure targets during its last three years of program operations. How successful has the applicant been in solving the identified problem? If the applicant did not meet performance targets, provide an explanation and describe the plan for improvement.

Describe any compliance issues and/or areas of weakness/risk identified during the last full year of program operation at your organization and service site locations (if applicable). If the applicant and/or service site locations had compliance or areas of weakness/risk identified, provide an explanation and describe the corrective action taken and your plan for improvement.

Enrollment: Please state the program's enrollment rate for the last full year of operation. If the program enrolled less than 100% of the slots received during its last full year of program operation, provide an explanation, and describe the plan for improvement. Enrollment rate is calculated as slots filled, plus refill slots filled, divided by slots awarded.

Retention: Please state the program's retention rate for the last full year of operation. If the applicant was not able to retain all of its members during the last full year of program operation, provide an explanation, and describe the plan for improvement. While CNCS recognizes retention rates may vary among effective programs depending on the program model, the expectation is that Grantees pursue the highest retention rate possible. Retention rate is calculated as the number of members exited with award (full or partial award) divided by the number of members enrolled.

d. Continuous Improvement

Describe the plans for soliciting timely and regular feedback from internal and external stakeholders to inform continuous improvement efforts. Describe the plans for using data to inform continuous improvement.

4. Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy (25 percent)

In assessing how the applicant will meet the criteria, reviewers will consider the quality of the applicant's response to the following:

For Cost-Reimbursement grants:

a. Cost Effectiveness

Cost Per MSY

Cost effectiveness will be evaluated by analyzing cost per MSY in relation to your program design. Having a low cost per member is a competitive advantage. New applicants that submit with a low cost per MSY and recompeting applicants that submit with a lower cost per MSY than previously funded may receive higher priority for funding. If the applicant requests above the maximum, it must justify your request. Please note that such requests are rarely approved.

All recompeting and continuation Grantees requesting a higher cost per MSY than in the previous year must include a compelling rationale for this increased cost including why this increase could not be covered by grantee share. This applies even if the increased cost per MSY is less than the maximum or if the increase is due to increased costs associated with the grant.

For Cost Reimbursement and Full-time Fixed Grants

Discuss how the program is a cost effective approach for addressing the community need(s) identified in the application. Consider the total costs and benefits of the program and, to the extent possible, document the costs and benefits. Compare the cost effectiveness of the program with the costs and benefits of alternative models or approaches (if available), and demonstrate how your program model is most cost effective. Applicants with a program design that achieves equal results at a lower cost will be advantaged over programs that achieve similar results at a higher cost.

For Fixed Amount grants (Full-time and EAP):

Discuss how the applicant will raise the additional resources it will need to manage and operate an AmeriCorps program beyond the fixed amount. Identify the total amount the applicant has budgeted to operate the program, including the fixed-amount from the CNCS and Grantee share and how your program determined that amount. Keep in mind that full-time AmeriCorps program costs include expenditures for the AmeriCorps living allowance, health care, and criminal history checks. Education Award Programs are not required to pay living allowances or cover health care for members, but must conduct criminal history checks.

b. Budget Adequacy

Applicants must complete and submit an excel budget document (provided) and provide the following information in the application narrative:

- Identify the non-CNCS funding and resources necessary to support the project.
- Discuss the adequacy of the budget to support the program design and objectives.
- Indicate the amount of non-CNCS resource commitments (in-kind, and cash) secured to date and the sources of these commitments.
- Describe plans for securing additional resource commitments, potential sources, and timeline.

When considering the above information, reviewers will assess the quality of the application based on the following factors:

- The extent to which the budget is clear.
- The extent to which the budget includes sufficient resources to carry out the program effectively.
- The extent to which the program will obtain financial and in-kind resources to support program implementation.
- Whether an applicant adequately budgeted for its required share of costs.

5. Evaluation Summary or Plan (required for recompeting grantees)

If the applicant is competing for the first time, the evaluation summary is not required. If the applicant is recompeting for AmeriCorps funds for the first time, then the program must submit its evaluation plan. If the applicant is recompeting for a subsequent time, the program must submit your evaluation report according to the instructions in V. E., below as well as an evaluation plan for the next three-year period.

Evaluation plans must include the following:

- A description of the intervention or program to be implemented by members. The description must include a theory of change and a clear statement of the outcomes anticipated.
- A description of the program evaluation design including research questions, research methodology and the outcomes that will be measured.
- A description of the data collection procedures including the types and sources of data, the population or sample, and a data analysis plan. The organization's data management system should be addressed if it will be used to collect data for the evaluation.
- A description of how the evaluation results, both interim and final, will be used.

The evaluation requirements differ depending on the amount of your grant, as described in 45 CFR § 2522.710:

- If you are a State and/or National Grantee (other than an Education Award Program grantee), and your average annual CNCS program grant is \$500,000 or more, you must arrange for an external evaluation of your program, and you must submit the evaluation with any subsequent application to CNCS for competitive funds as required in §2522.730 of this subpart.
- If you are a State and/or National Grantee whose average annual CNCS program grant is less than \$500,000, or an Education Award Program Grantee, you must conduct an internal or an external evaluation of your program, and you must submit the evaluation with any subsequent application to CNCS for competitive funds as required in §2522.730 of this subpart.

A program will be considered a recompeting application if it satisfies the CNCS definition of "same project," below, and has been funded in for at least one three-year cycle. If the project satisfies the definition of same project, and the applicant has completed one three-year cycle, the program will be required to submit an evaluation plan. If the project does not satisfy the definition, it will be considered new and will not be required to submit an evaluation plan, summary, or completed evaluation.

Two projects will be considered the same if they:

- Address the same issue areas
- Address the same priorities
- Address the same objectives
- Serve the same target communities and population
- Utilize the same sites
- Use the same program staff and members

Existing programs must receive approval from their MCSC program officers to be considered a new project.

Please note: This is the end of the narrative portion of your application. Below begins the instructions for completing the required budget to accompany your narrative.

6. Budget Instructions

Please submit a budget in Excel as a separate attachment from the narrative questions above.

Please utilize the Budget Narrative Template, which can be accessed via www.michigan.gov/mcsc.

Before You Begin: Your detailed budget must provide a full explanation of associated costs including the purpose, justification, and the basis of your calculations. Where appropriate, your calculations should be presented in an equation format, identifying the number of persons involved with the event, per person/unit cost, and/or the annual salary cost.

Summary of Statutory Budget Requirements: Equipment costs must not exceed 10% of the total federal share. Administrative costs must not exceed 5% of the total CNCS funds requested.

Consistency of Treatment: To be allowable under this award, costs must be consistent with policies and procedures that apply uniformly to both federally financed and other activities of the applicant. Furthermore, the costs must be accorded consistent treatment in both federally financed and other activities as well as between activities supported by different sources of federal funds.

Section I: Program Operating Costs

- A. Personnel Expenses:** Include the portion of principal staff time attributed directly to the operation of the AmeriCorps program. *List each staff position percentage of time attributable to program and wag calculation.* Note that all programs are required to have at least one full-time equivalent staff person dedicated to the operation of the program. Any exception to this rule must be approved by MCSC.
- B. Personnel Fringe Benefits:** Include costs of benefit(s) for your project staff. You can identify and calculate each benefit or show cost as a percentage of all salaries. *Please provide cost calculations for benefits, such as FICA, health, retirement, etc., separately rather than as one lump sum item.*
- C. 1. Staff Travel:** Describe the purposes for staff travel. Costs allowable are transportation (\$.565 maximum/mile as of 1/1/13), lodging, subsistence, and other related expenses for local and outside the project area travel. All travel and mileage rates must not be greater than the most recent State of Michigan travel reimbursement rates, as well as consistent with the organization's travel policy.

Be sure to include the following:

- 1.) The costs associated with traveling to six program director meetings in Lansing.
- 2.) \$2,000 for travel for at least one staff member to attend the CNCS sponsored technical assistance meetings. The description should be as follows:
Out of State Travel to CNCS-Sponsored Meetings: Conference 4 nights, hotel @\$139 ave gov. rate + tax (per Conlin Travel) = \$150/nt x 4 nts=\$600; airfare \$450, Food-\$29.25 (B-fast @ \$8.25 + Dinner @ \$21) x 5 days= \$146, cab fare @\$100RT, mileage to airport RT @ 360 miles x .555 (premium state rate travel) = \$200 conf. reg. fee @\$504 = \$2000

- 2. Member Travel:** Describe the purpose for which members will travel. Costs allowable

under this category are transportation (see above for travel rate information), lodging, meals during events/trainings, and other related expenses for members to travel outside their service location or between sites. Costs associated with traveling locally, such as bus passes to local sites, mileage reimbursement for use of car, etc., may be included in this category. Each applicant should budget for their LeaderCorps representative to attend two statewide meetings (one in Lansing and one in northern Michigan). Applicants need only budget mileage and incidentals. Each applicant must also include all necessary travel costs for members to attend a statewide Lansing held Member Celebration and mileage for a regional service project.

D. Equipment: Equipment is defined as tangible, non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year AND an acquisition cost of \$5,000 (five thousand) or more per unit (including accessories, attachments, and modifications). Include items that do not meet this definition in *E. Supplies* below. Purchases of equipment are limited to 10% of the total grant amount, i.e., the federal share of all budget line items. If applicable, show the unit cost and number of units you are requesting.

E. Supplies: Include the funds for the purchase of consumable supplies and materials, including Member Service Gear (uniform) and equipment that does not fit the definition above. You must individually list any single item costing \$1,000 (one thousand) or more. Programs are required to purchase all members a basic AmeriCorps uniform package (such as a t-shirt, sweatshirt, hat, lapel pin, and button). All applicants must budget a uniform package (minimum of \$35.00 and maximum of \$70.00 per member). List what the uniform package includes and the total cost per package. Any exception to this rule must be approved by the MCSC. Programs should supply items that are best suited to the type of services provided by members.

F. Contractual and Consultant Services: Applicants may include costs for consultants related to the project's operations. Consultants used for evaluation should be included in H. Evaluation below. Payments to individuals for consultant services under this grant may not exceed \$750 per day (exclusive of any indirect expenses, travel, supplies, etc.). Where applicable, indicate the daily rate for consultants.

G. 1. Staff Training: These costs are considered registration fees and should be listed as such along with the costs associated with training of staff working directly on the project; especially training that specifically enhances staff project implementation and professional skills, i.e., project or financial management, team building, etc. Indicate daily rates of consultants, where applicable.

2. Member Training: These costs are also considered registration fees and should be listed as such along with the costs associated with the training of members that will support them in carrying out their service activities (e.g., Orientation, project-specific skills such as age-appropriate tutoring, CPR, ecosystems and the environment, Life After AmeriCorps, etc.). Indicate daily rates of consultants, where applicable.

All applicants must budget registration fees for members to attend statewide MCSC-

sponsored trainings. This is a \$75 registration fee per full-time and half-time member and should be listed as such, and \$40 registration fee per reduced half-time, quarter-time, and minimum-time member. This should be its own line item within this section and should be represented as follows: “(# members * \$75 reg. fee) + (# members * \$40 reg. fee) = \$### to attend statewide member training events.” Insert the number of members granted to your program in the calculation and show the total costs associated.

Please note that you will be invoiced early in the program year for the total amount budgeted, in order to help pay for statewide events and trainings (this invoice is payable upon receipt).

H. Evaluation: Include costs for project evaluation activities; including additional staff time or subcontracts you did not budget under A. Personnel Expenses, use of evaluation consultants, purchase of instrumentation and other costs specifically for this activity. This *does not* include the daily/weekly gathering of data to assess progress toward project objectives, but is a larger assessment of the *impact* your project is having on the community, as well as an assessment of the overall systems and project design. Indicate daily rates of consultants, where applicable.

I. Other Operating Costs: Allowable costs in this category are criminal FBI background checks of members. In addition, these costs may include office space rental for sites where projects are operating, utilities, and telephone and internet expenses that are specifically used for AmeriCorps members, directly involve AmeriCorps program staff, and are not part of the organization’s indirect cost/admin cost. If shared with other projects or activities, you must prorate the costs equitably. List each item and provide a justification in the budget narrative.

Match: Describe the grantee match contribution for Section I by clearly indicating the source(s), the type of contribution (cash or in-kind), the amount (or estimate), and the intended purpose of the match. Applicants may enter this information in any category in the Purpose-Calculation field.

Section II: Member Costs

A. Living Allowance: The narrative should clearly identify the number of members the program will support by category (i.e., full-time, half-time, reduced-half-time, quarter-time, minimum-time) and the amount of living allowance they will receive, allocating appropriate portions between the CNCS and grantee match based on other funding sources.

Members – Enter the total number of members the applicant is requesting in each category. Enter the amount of the living allowance for each type of member. Enter the number of members for which the applicant is not requesting funds for a living allowance, but for which the applicant is requesting education awards.

Calculating the Living Allowance - Generally, all full-time members must receive a living allowance between \$12,100 (minimum) and \$24,200 (maximum). You are not

required to provide living allowances for members serving less than full-time. Please note that if your half-time program requires more than 900 but less than 1,700 hours, you may prorate the living allowance accordingly.

Projects in existence prior to September 21, 1993 when the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 was enacted may offer a living allowance lower than the minimum (\$12,100) to full-time members.

B. Member Support Costs: Consistent with the laws of your state, you must provide members with the benefits described below.

FICA: Unless exempted by the IRS with accompanying documentation, all projects must pay FICA for any member receiving a living allowance, even when the Corporation does not supply the living allowance. In the first column next to FICA, indicate the number of members who will receive FICA. Calculate the FICA at 7.65% of the total amount of the living allowance.

Worker's Compensation: Worker's compensation is required for Michigan's AmeriCorps members (if you are not required to pay worker's compensation you must obtain Occupational, Accidental, Death and Dismemberment coverage for members to cover in-service injury or incidents).

Health Insurance: The program must offer health care benefits to full-time members in accordance with AmeriCorps requirements. Except as stated below the program may not pay health care benefits to half-time members with CNCS funds. The program may choose to provide health care benefits to half-time members from other sources. Half-time members who are serving in a full-time capacity for a sustained period of time (such as a full-time summer project) may be eligible for health care benefits supported with program funds. However, CNCS must either approve this in the grant agreement or by prior written approval. In the budget narrative, indicate the number of members who will receive the project's existing health care benefits. CNCS funds cannot be used to pay for dependent coverage.

Other: Include any other required member support costs here. *Note: Michigan no longer requires programs to budget for unemployment costs.*

Match: Describe the grantee match contribution for Member Costs by clearly indicating the source(s), the type of contribution (cash or in-kind), the amount (or estimate), and the intended purpose of the match. You can enter this information in the Purpose/Category field in Section B, Member Support Costs.

Section III: Administrative/Indirect Costs

Definition: Administrative costs are general or centralized expenses of the overall administration of an organization that receives CNCS funds and do not include particular project costs. These costs may include administrative staff positions. For organizations that have an established indirect cost rate for federal awards, administrative costs mean those costs that are included in the organization's indirect cost rate agreement. Such costs are generally identified with the

organization's overall operation and are further described in Office of Management and Budget Circulars A-21, A-87, and A-122. For organizations that do not have an established indirect cost rate for federal awards, administrative costs include:

- costs for financial, accounting, auditing, contracting, or general legal services, except in unusual cases whether they are specifically approved in writing by the Corporation as project costs;
- costs for internal evaluation, including overall organization's management improvement costs (except for independent and internal evaluations of the project evaluations that are specifically related to creative methods of quality improvement);
- and costs for general liability insurance that protects the organization(s) responsible for operating a project, other than insurance costs solely attributable to the project.

Administrative costs may also include that portion of salaries and benefits of the program's director and other administrative staff not attributable to the time spent in support of a specific project. The principles that pertain to the allocation and documentation of personnel costs are stated in the OMB circulars that are incorporated in CNCS regulations [45 CFR 2541.220(b)].

Administrative costs **do not** include the following allowable expenses directly related to a project (including their operations and objectives), such as:

- allowable direct charges for members, including living allowances, insurance payments made on behalf of members, training, and travel;
- costs for staff (including salary, benefits, training, and travel) who recruit, train, place, or supervise members or who develop materials used in such activities, if the purpose is for a specific project objective;
- costs for independent evaluations and any internal evaluations of the project that are related specifically to creative methods of quality improvement;
- costs, excluding those already covered in an organization's indirect cost rate, attributable to staff that work in a direct project support, operational, or oversight capacity, including, but not limited to: support staff whose functions directly support project activities;
- staff who coordinate and facilitate single or multi-site project activities;
- and staff who review, disseminate, and implement CNCS guidance and policies directly relating to a project; space, facility, and communications costs that primarily support program operations, excluding those costs that are already covered by an organization's indirect costs rate; and other allowable costs, excluding those costs that are already covered by an organization's indirect cost rate, specifically approved by CNCS as directly attributable to a program.

Indirect Cost Rates

If grantees have an approved indirect cost rate, such rate will constitute documentation of the grantee's administrative costs including the 5.26% maximum payable by CNCS and the grantee match of administrative costs.

If a grantee wants to claim more than 10% match in administrative costs it must have or obtain an approved indirect cost rate. Where appropriate, CNCS will establish an indirect cost rate that may be used for this and other Federal awards.

As per federal guidelines, the Michigan Community Service Commission will set aside a portion of the federal administrative share to use in administering its sub-grantees, equal to approximately 1% of the total budget. This amount must not exceed 20% of the maximum 5.26% federal share and, therefore, the sub-grantee's portion must not exceed 80% of the maximum federal share. The calculations are below.

A. Corporation Fixed Percentage Method

CALCULATING ADMINISTRATIVE/INDIRECT COSTS

Options for Calculating Administrative/Indirect Costs (choose either A. OR B.)

Applicants may choose to use one of two methods to calculate allowable administrative costs – a Corporation fixed percentage method or a federally approved indirect cost rate method.

Regardless of the option chosen, the Corporation's share of administrative costs is limited by statute to 5.26% of the total Corporation funds **actually expended** under this grant.

Please note that applicants are not required to budget for administrative/indirect costs. However, the applicant is required to budget for the CNCS Commission Fixed Amount, as described in OPTION A.d. below.

OPTION A. CORPORATION FIXED PERCENTAGE METHOD

The Corporation fixed rate allows you to charge administrative costs up to a cap without a federally approved indirect cost rate and without documentation supporting the allocation. You may charge, for administrative costs, a fixed 5.26% of the total of the Corporation (CNCS) funds **expended**. In order to charge this fixed 5.26%, the grantee match for administrative costs may not exceed 10% of all direct cost expenditures. The allocation budgeted and claimed should not exceed actual expenses.

However, because the MCSC (State Commission) requires 1% of each grantee's CNCS administrative costs to be set aside from the reimbursable grant award, each grantee regardless of grant award type is only allowed to charge up to 4.20% of the total of the Corporations funds expended (a.) and will need to follow the instructions below even if you have a federally approved indirect cost rate. The federally approved indirect cost rate may be budgeted under the Administrative/Indirect Costs (option B below) not to exceed a reimbursement rate of 4.21%.

- a) To allocate the *CNCS share* of this amount (called Corporation Fixed Amount on the budget: Multiply the sum of the CNCS shares of Sections I and II by 5.26% (i.e. 0.0526) x .80. (This is the same as 4.20%.) This is the maximum amount that you can request as the CNCS share of administrative costs. Enter this amount as the CNCS share for Section III, in the line item **Corporation Fixed Amount**.
- b) To allocate the *Grantee share* of this amount: If applicable, multiply the total (both CNCS and grantee shares) for of Sections I and II by 10% (0.10). This is the maximum amount you can enter as the grantee share for Section III A, in the line item Corporation Fixed Amount.
- c) Enter the sum of the CNCS and grantee shares under Total Amount.
- d) To allocate the CNCS Commission Fixed Amount of administrative costs: Multiply the sum of the CNCS shares of Sections I and II by 5.26% (i.e.0.0526) x .20 (which is the same as 1.05%) = This is the maximum amount the program is ***required** to list as the

Commission's CNCS share of administrative costs. Enter this amount as the CNCS share for Section III, in the line item **Commission Fixed Amount**. *Do not list any part of this amount under Grantee Share.*

Budget Narrative Example for Administrative/Indirect Costs

A. Corporation Fixed Percentage

CNCS Corporation Fixed Amount: $(\text{CNCS [Section I]} + [\text{Section II}] \times 0.0526) \times (0.80) = \text{CNCS Share.}$

Grantee Corporation Fixed Amount: $(\text{CNCS [Section I]} + [\text{Section II}] + \text{Grantee Share [Section I]} + [\text{Section II}] \times 0.10) = \text{Total Grantee Share}$

***Commission Fixed Amount:** $(\text{CNCS [Section I]} + [\text{Section II}] \times .0526) \times (.20) = \text{CNCS Commission Share}$

B. Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate Method

If you have a Federally Approved Indirect Cost (IDC) rate and choose to use it, the IDC rate will constitute documentation of your administrative costs including the 5% maximum payable by CNCS. Specify the Cost Type for which your organization has current documentation on file (i.e., Provisional, Predetermined, Fixed, or Final indirect cost rate). Supply your approved IDC rate (percentage) and the base upon which this rate is calculated (direct salaries, salaries and fringe benefits, etc.). It is at your discretion whether or not to claim your entire IDC rate to calculate administrative costs. If you choose to claim a lower rate, please include this rate in the Rate Claimed field.

- a. Determine the base amount of direct costs to which you will apply the IDC rate, including both the CNCS and Grantee's shares, as prescribed by your established rate agreement (i.e., based on salaries and benefits, total direct costs, or other). Then multiply the appropriate direct costs by the rate being claimed. This will determine the total amount of indirect costs allowable under the grant.
- b. To allocate the CNCS share of this amount: Multiply the sum of the Corporation funding share in Sections I and II by 0.0421. This is the maximum amount you can claim as the CNCS share of indirect costs.
- c. To allocate the Grantee share of this amount: Subtract the amount calculated in step b. (the CNCS administrative share) from the amount calculated in step a. (the Indirect Cost total). This is the amount the applicant can claim as grantee share for administrative costs.

B. Goals of the review and selection process

The assessment of applications involves a wide range of factors and considerations. As in the past, the MCSC will engage external reviewers to provide insight and input with respect to eligible applications. In addition, the MCSC staff will apply their experience and expertise in evaluating applications. In the end, the review and selection process will produce a diversified set of high-quality programs that represent the priorities and selection factors described in these *guidelines*.

Specifically, the review and selection process will:

1. Identify eligible applications that satisfy the following considerations:

- High alignment with criteria
- Align with funding priorities
- Relative risk and opportunity

2. Consider:

- Recruitment and deployment of community volunteers to leverage impact
- The strength of the need and evidence base for the program

3. Yield a diversified portfolio based on the following strategic considerations:

- Geographic representation
- Meaningful representation of
 - Rural and urban communities
 - Small and large programs
 - Single and multi-state programs
 - Faith- and community-based organizations
- Focus area representation
- Organizations and/or program models that build capacity for individuals, nonprofits and communities to solve problems
- Organizations and/or program models that recruit and engage traditionally underrepresented populations as AmeriCorps members and expand opportunities to serve as AmeriCorps members, particularly for new Americans, low-income individuals, “Opportunity Youth-- the one in six young people (ages 16-24) who are disconnected from school or work,” rural residents, older Americans, veterans, communities of color, Native Americans, and people with disabilities
- Organizations that embrace innovative approaches to solving problems, including service-learning

C. Stages in the review and selection process

1. MCSC External Review

MCSC will retain external reviewers who will assess applications. Each application will be reviewed by at least three external reviewers. External reviewers will be recruited and selected on the basis of demonstrated knowledge of AmeriCorps programming, and/or the selection criteria and focus areas. All external reviewers will be screened for conflicts of interest. Submitted program evaluations will be considered at this stage. External reviewers will make recommendations for the MCSC internal review.

2. MCSC Internal Review

MCSC staff will assess applications that successfully pass the external review. Following staff assessment, some applicants may receive requests to provide clarifying information and/or make changes to their application including the budget. This information is used by MCSC staff in making final recommendations. Applications may be recommended for funding even if they are not asked clarification questions. A request for clarification does not guarantee a grant award. Failure to respond to requests for additional information in a timely fashion will result in the removal of applications from consideration.

MCSC staff will make recommendations to its Board of Commissioners, who will approve which applications are submitted to CNCS for further review for competitive funding and which ones will be held for formula consideration.

3. CNCS Review

Those applications recommended for CNCS competitive funding will be assessed by a CNCS external peer review panel. Those that make it through this process successfully will then be assessed by an internal CNCS staff panel. Some applicants may receive requests to provide clarifying information and/or make changes to their application including the budget.

4. Feedback to Applicants

Following grant awards, each applicant may request the results of external and, if applicable, internal review pertaining to their application. Feedback will be based on the review of the original application and will not reflect any information that may have been provided during clarification.

CNCS is committed to transparency in grantmaking. The following information pertaining to this competition for new and recompetite applications will be published on the CNCS website (<http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/open-government-initiative/transparency/results-grants-competition>), within 90 business days after all grants are awarded:

- A blank template of external review form
- A list of all compliant applications submitted
- Executive summaries of all compliant applications submitted by the applicants as part of the application
- Standard Form 424 Face Sheet (SF424) and Program Narrative submitted by applicants for successful applications
- Summaries of external reviewer's comments for successful applications
- A list of external reviewers who completed the review process

D. Continuation Expansion Requests

Requests for continuation expansions will be assessed using the same criteria as the new and recompetite applications and whether the applicant has lowered its cost per MSY.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Award Notice

CNCS will award grants following the grant selection announcement. We anticipate announcing the results of this competition sometime in April 2015, dependent on the availability of appropriations.

B. Documents that Govern the Grant

The Notice of Grant Award incorporates the approved application as part of a binding commitment under the grant as well as the AmeriCorps regulations and grant provisions.

C. Project/Award Period

The project start date may not occur prior to the date CNCS awards the grant. AmeriCorps members may not enroll prior to the start date of the award. AmeriCorps members may not begin service prior to the beginning of the member enrollment period as designated in the grant award. A program may not certify any hours a member performs prior to the beginning of the member enrollment period.

Unless otherwise specified, the grant generally covers a three-year project period. In approving a multi-year project period, CNCS generally makes an initial award for the first year of operation. In most cases, the application is submitted with a one-year budget. Continuation funding is not guaranteed. Factors considered in awarding continuation grants include satisfactory performance, demonstrated capacity to manage the grant, compliance with grant requirements, agency priorities, and the availability of appropriated funds. CNCS reserves the right to adjust the amount of a grant or elect not to continue funding for subsequent years.

D. Use of Material

To ensure that materials generated with CNCS funding are available to the public and readily accessible to Grantees and non-Grantees, CNCS reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to obtain, use, modify, reproduce, publish, or disseminate publications and materials produced under the award, including data, and to authorize others to do so. 45 CFR § 2543.36; 2541.30

E. Reporting Requirements

Cost reimbursement Grantees are required to provide quarterly progress reports, monthly periodic expense reports, semi-annual financial reports, and an internal or external evaluation report as required by the AmeriCorps regulations §§2522.500-2522.540 and §§2522.700-2522.740.

Fixed-amount Grantees are required to quarterly progress reports and an internal or external evaluation report. All grantees provide quarterly expense reports through the Payment Management System at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

While applications will not be evaluated on these criteria, Grantees will be expected to have data collection and data management policies and practices that provide reasonable assurance that they are providing CNCS with high quality performance measure data. At a minimum, Grantees should have policies and practices which address the following five aspects of data quality:

- The data measures what it intends to measure;
- The Grantee collects data in a consistent manner;

- The Grantee takes steps to correct data errors;
- The Grantee ensures that the data reported is complete; and
- The Grantee actively reviews data prior to submission.

F. Re-Focusing of Funding

CNCS reserves the right to re-focus funding in the event of disaster or other compelling need for service.

DEFINITIONS

New applicants are those that have never had AmeriCorps State and/or National funding before. Current and former formula Grantees are not new.

Recompete applicants are those that have received AmeriCorps State and/or National funding before and are in Year 3 of their grant cycle and are applying for continued funding for the program for another three years.

Continuation applicants are those that are in their first or second year of a funding cycle.

Previous applicants are those that have been funded through state formula grants and/or were unsuccessful recompile applicants in previous years.

Cost Reimbursement Grants fund a portion of program operating costs and member living allowances with flexibility to use all of the funds for allowable costs regardless of whether or not the program recruits and retains all AmeriCorps members. Cost reimbursement grants include a formal matching requirement.

Full-time Fixed Amount / Less than FT serving in a full time capacity Grants (Non-EAP)
These fixed amount grants are available for programs that enroll full-time members or less than full-time members that are serving in a full time capacity only, including Professional Corps. These grants provide a fixed amount of funding per Member Service Year (MSY) that is substantially lower than the amount required to operate the program. Organizations use their own or other resources to cover the remaining cost. Programs are not required to submit budgets or financial reports, there is no specific match requirement, and programs are not required to track and maintain documentation of match. However, CNCS provides only a portion of the cost of running the program and organizations must still raise the additional resources needed to run the program. Programs can access all of the funds, provided they recruit and retain the members supported under the grant based on the MSY level awarded.

Fixed-amount grants are only available to recompeting programs. Second and third-year continuation applicants with cost reimbursement grants must submit a new application if they are interested in applying for a fixed amount grant. New applicants are NOT eligible to apply for fixed amount grants.

Full-time fixed amount applicants in the Education Focus Area are required to select either a Priority Education Measure or Complementary Program Measure. Applicants proposing non-Education programs may select from Tiers 1-5.

Education Award Fixed Amount Grants (EAP) Programs apply for a small fixed amount per MSY, can enroll less than full-time members, and use their own resources to cover all other costs. Programs can access funds under the grant based on enrolling the full complement of members supported under the grant. As with full-time fixed amount grants, there are no specific match or financial reporting requirements.

Fixed-amount grants are only available to recompetiting programs. Second and third-year continuation applicants with cost reimbursement grants must submit a new application if they are interested in applying for a fixed amount grant. New applicants are NOT eligible to apply for these grants.

One **Member Service Year** (MSY) is equivalent to a full-time AmeriCorps position (at least 1700 service hours.)

Evidence informed means that:

- a) There is at least one study that is a correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias; quasi-experimental study that meets the What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Standards with reservations (See http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/pdf/reference_resources/wwc_procedures_v2_1_standards_handbook.pdf); or randomized controlled trial that meets the What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Standards with or without reservations and
- b) The study referenced in paragraph (a) found a statistically significant or substantively important (defined as a difference of 0.25 standard deviations or larger), favorable association between at least one critical component and one relevant outcome presented in the logic model for the proposed process, product, strategy, or practice.

Quasi-experimental study means a study using a design that attempts to approximate an experimental design by identifying a comparison group that is similar to the treatment group in important respects. These studies, depending on design and implementation, can meet What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Standards with reservations (they cannot meet What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Standards without reservations).

Randomized controlled trial means a study that employs random assignment of, for example, students, teachers, classrooms, schools, or districts to receive the intervention being evaluated (the treatment group) or not to receive the intervention (the control group). The estimated effectiveness of the intervention is the difference between the average outcome for the treatment group and for the control group. These studies, depending on design and implementation, can meet What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Standards without reservations.

Evidence-based: Means evidence from previous studies whose designs can support causal conclusions (i.e., studies with high internal validity), and studies that in total include enough of the range of participants and settings (i.e., studies with high external validity). This is defined as:

- (1) More than one well-designed and well-implemented experimental study or well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study that supports the effectiveness of the practice, strategy, or program; or
- (2) One large, well-designed and well-implemented randomized controlled, multisite trial that supports the effectiveness of the practice, strategy, or program.





2015-2016 Michigan's AmeriCorps Intent to Apply Form

Name of Organization: _____
Contact Person: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email address: _____

On which CNCS focus area(s) will the proposed program focus?

Education ☐ Veterans and Military Families ☐ Disaster Services ☐
Healthy Futures ☐ Economic Opportunity ☐ Environmental Stewardship ☐

Also, indicate the **anticipated size** of your Michigan's AmeriCorps program. Please note that programs must enroll a minimum of ten (10) full-time equivalent members. In your application you may adjust the number of members.

Number of members:

Full-time (1700 hours) _____ Reduced Half-Time (675 hours) _____
Half-time (900 hours) _____ Quarter-time (450 hours) _____
Minimum-time (300 hours) _____

Please submit this form via email to Jocelyn Davis, davisj31@michigan.gov with the
SUBJECT: "AmeriCorps State Notice of Intent" by 5:00 p.m. EST on September 15, 2014.



2015-2016 Michigan's AmeriCorps Title Page



Name of Proposed Program: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email address: _____

Name of Organization Operating Program (if different from Applicant Organization):

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email address: _____

County, region, or city in which program will operate: _____

On which CNCS focus area(s) will the proposed program focus?

Education ☐ Veterans and Military Families ☐ Disaster Services ☐
Healthy Futures ☐ Economic Opportunity ☐ Environmental Stewardship ☐

Also, indicate the **anticipated size** of your Michigan's AmeriCorps program. Please note that programs must enroll a minimum of ten (10) full-time equivalent members. In your application you may adjust the number of members.

Number of members:

Full-time (1700 hours) _____ Reduced Half-Time (675 hours) _____
Half-time (900 hours) _____ Quarter-time (450 hours) _____
Minimum-time (300 hours) _____

Budget:

CNCS Share Requested: _____ Grantee Share: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

MICHIGAN’S AMERICORPS NEW/RECOMPETING APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

Please review the following checklist to ensure that your application meets the submission requirements. Each application will be reviewed for compliance. **Any application received by MCSC not in compliance with any item on the following checklist will be considered ineligible for review.** The application will be returned to the applicant.

Please complete and submit the checklist along with your Michigan’s AmeriCorps application.

Applicant Organization:

Applicants must submit one completed application package via email that includes:

TITLE PAGE

Applicants must use the form provided in the Appendix. A single page .pdf of this form is also available at www.michigan.gov/mcsc -- follow the “AmeriCorps Funding Opportunity” link.

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

- Typed
- Double-spaced and in not less than 12-point font size
- One-inch margins
- Must not exceed 15 pages for new applicants and 17 for recompeting applicants
- The narrative must follow the narrative format and include headings / sub-headings for each section
- The pages must be numbered

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SURVEY

BUDGET NARRATIVE

The budget narrative must follow the order and include all items in the sample worksheet provided. An Excel spreadsheet of this form is also available at www.michigan.gov/mcsc -- follow the “AmeriCorps Funding Opportunity” link (1st tab).

Include one copy of the applicant organization’s most recent independent audit.

ATTACHMENT: BUDGET CHECKLIST

Below is a checklist to help you make certain that you submit an accurate budget narrative that meets AmeriCorps requirements.

In Compliance?	Section I. Program Operating Costs
Yes ___ No ___	Costs charged under the Personnel line item directly relate to the operation of the AmeriCorps project? Examples include costs for staff that recruit, train, place, or supervise members as well as manage the project.
Yes ___ No ___	Staff indirectly involved in the management or operation of the applicant organization is funded through the administrative cost section (Section III.) of the budget? Examples of administrative costs include central management and support functions.
Yes ___ No ___	Staff fundraising expenses are not charged to the grant? You may not charge AmeriCorps staff members' time and related expenses for fundraising to the federal or grantee share of the grant. Expenses incurred to raise funds must be paid out of the funds raised. Development officers and fundraising staff are not allowable expenses.
Yes ___ No ___	All positions in the budget are fully described in the narrative?
Yes ___ No ___	The types of fringe benefits to be covered and the costs of benefit(s) for each staff position are described? Allowable fringe benefits typically include FICA, Worker's Compensation, Retirement, SUTA, Health and Life Insurance, IRA, and 401K. You may provide a calculation for total benefits as a percentage of the salaries to which they apply or list each benefit as a separate item. If the fringe amount is over 30%, please list separately. Holidays, leave, and other similar vacation benefits are not included in the fringe benefit rates but are absorbed into the personnel expenses (salary) budget line item?
Yes ___ No ___	Holidays, leave, and other similar vacation benefits are not included in the fringe benefit rates but are absorbed into the personnel expenses (salary) budget line item?
Yes ___ No ___	The purpose for all staff and member travel is clearly identified?
Yes ___ No ___	You have budgeted funds for staff travel to CNCS sponsored meetings in the budget narrative under Staff Travel?
Yes ___ No ___	Funds to pay relocation expenses of AmeriCorps members are not in the federal share of the budget?
Yes ___ No ___	Funds for the purchase of equipment (does not include general use office equipment) are limited to 10% of the total grant amount?
Yes ___ No ___	All single equipment items over \$5000 per unit are specifically listed?
Yes ___ No ___	Justification/explanation of equipment items is included in the budget narrative?
Yes ___ No ___	All single supply items over \$1000 per unit are specifically listed?
Yes ___ No ___	You only charged to the federal share of the budget member service gear that includes the AmeriCorps logo, with the exception of safety equipment?
Yes ___ No ___	Are all consultant services budgeted below the maximum federal daily rate of \$750/day? Is the daily rate noted in all sections of the budget narrative where consultants are proposed?
Yes ___ No ___	Does the budget reflect adequate budgeted costs for project evaluation?
Yes ___ No ___	Have you provided budgeted costs for background checks of members and grant-funded staff that are in covered positions per 45 CFR 2522.205?
Yes ___ No ___	Are all items in the budget narrative itemized and the purpose of the funds justified?

In Compliance?	Section II. Member Costs
Yes ___ No ___	Are the living allowance amounts correct? Full-time AmeriCorps members must receive at least the minimum living allowance. <i>Note: Programs in existence prior to September 21, 1993 may offer a lower living allowance than the minimum. If such a program chooses to offer a living allowance, it is exempt from the minimum requirement, but not from the maximum requirement.</i>
Yes ___ No ___	Living allowances are not paid on an hourly basis? They may be calculated using service hours and program length to derive a weekly or biweekly distribution amount. Divide the distribution in equal increments that are not based on the specified number of hours served.
Yes ___ No ___	Is FICA calculated correctly? You must pay FICA for any member receiving a living allowance. Unless exempted by the IRS, calculate FICA at 7.65% of the total amount of the living allowance.
Yes ___ No ___	Is the Worker's Compensation calculation correct? Some states require worker's compensation for AmeriCorps members. Check with your local State Department of Labor or State Commission to determine whether or not you are required to pay worker's compensation and at what level (i.e., rate). If you are not required to pay worker's compensation, you need to provide similar coverage for members' on-the-job injuries through their own existing coverage or a new policy purchased in accordance with normal procedures (i.e., Death and Dismemberment coverage).
Yes ___ No ___	Health care is provided for full-time AmeriCorps members only (unless part-time serving in a full-time capacity)? If your project chooses to provide health care to other half-time members, you may not use federal funds to help pay for any portion of the cost. Projects must provide health care coverage to all full-time members who do not have adequate health care coverage at the time of enrollment or who lose coverage due to participation in the project. In addition, projects must provide coverage if a full-time member loses coverage during the term of service through no deliberate act of his/her own.

In Compliance?	Section III. Administrative/Indirect Costs
Yes ___ No ___	Applicant has chosen Option A – CNCS-fixed percentage method and the maximum federal share of administrative costs does not exceed 5% of the total federal funds budgeted? To determine the federal administrative share, multiply all other budgeted federal funds by .0526.
Yes ___ No ___	Applicant has chosen Option A – CNCS fixed percentage method and the maximum grantee share is at 10% or less of total budgeted funds?
Yes ___ No ___	Applicant has chosen Option B – federally approved indirect cost rate method and documentation submitted to CNCS if multi-state, state or territory without commission or Indian Tribe applicant? Administrative costs budgeted include the following: (1) indirect costs such as legal staff, central management and support functions; (2) costs for financial, accounting, audit, internal evaluations, and contracting functions; (3) costs for insurance that protects the entity that operates the project; and (4) the portion of the salaries and benefits of the director and any other project administrative staff not attributable to the time spent in direct support of a specific project.
Yes ___ No ___	Applicant has chosen Option B – The maximum grantee share does not exceed the federally approved rate, less the 5% CNCS share?

In Compliance?	Match
Yes ___ No ___	Is the overall match being met at the required level, based on the year of funding?
Yes ___ No ___	For all matching funds, the source(s) [private, state and local, and federal], the type of contribution (cash or in-kind), and the amount (or an estimate) of match, are clearly identified in the narrative and in the Source of Match field in eGrants?